*Parliamentarians for East Timor*
*244A Upper Street, London N1 1RU*

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From Lord Avebury

November 23, 1989

Dear Mr Encarnacao,

I write to get your opinion on some possible initiatives on the question of East Timor, and I am writing in similar terms to other Portuguese members of PET.

First, as you know, the Secretary General of the United Nations did not reply direct to the appeal from Bishop Belo, calling for a referendum. What do you think about us sending a delegation to see the Secretary General about this, and to ask him what plans he has for consulting the people of East Timor, in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution of November 1982?

We could also ask members of PET in other countries to write to the Secretary General on the same lines.

In this connection, I wonder if you have any names of Parliamentarians in France who might be sympathetic? Indeed, if you know any well enough to approach them yourself, that would be enormously helpful.

We think it would be valuable to have more members from the third world, and again I wonder if we could enlist your help in making contact with the Lusophone countries?

As you know, an agreement was reached in October between Indonesia and Australia on the exploitation of the seabed in between East Timor and Australia. This is of course illegal, and I wonder if you have any ideas on how it can be contested? I understand that the Portuguese Government is planning to ask the International Court for a ruling on the matter; perhaps we could all ask our governments to ensure that companies based in their territories do nothing in the meanwhile that might preempt the authority of the Court? You and your colleagues might perhaps write to our Australian and Japanese friends asking them to consider taking action on these lines.

Finally, the idea has been discussed here of a special tour by Portuguese members of PET of Parliaments of the Twelve, to explain the current state of affairs and to enlist further support on the question of East Timor. If you think this is a good idea in principle, we might arrange to send a representative from the British Group to discuss it with you and explain how it might work out if you came to Britain.

Yours sincerely,

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*Founder Members*
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